

Badger State Turf Clippings

By Tom Wentz and the Reinders Team

The three weeks of summer, late July and early August, will likely go down as one of the more stressful periods in a long time. What I have heard is that superintendents had not experienced this much hot, humid weather for this extended period since 1995. While this may not have been the case all around Wisconsin, certainly here in South Central and Southeast, we had a period that felt a lot like St. Louis!! The difference is in St. Louis they get it for at least two months.

In my travels around during July and early August, pythium showed up for the first time at many golf courses. If you did not have preventative treatment down, the last weekend in July was devastating on turf. Water management was an issue, as some golf courses experienced three to four inches of rain leading up to the final July weekend. Short root systems leading into the stress time devastated *Poa* dominated greens, surrounds and fairways. It seemed during the first week in August, several golf courses experienced outbreaks of fairy ring combined with brown patch. Needless to say, chemical budgets were stretched this year to keep the turf alive.

During my stops, many superintendents were feeling "stressed" as much as the turf. I could tell many were tired and just plain overworked. While we may have solutions for the turf stress, so often we ignore how to deal with our own stress. So for the future, I have pulled off a list from the Department of Mental Health on "Ten Positive Ways to Deal with Stress." They are:

1. Talk to someone about how you feel, even though this may be difficult.

2. Participate in some strenuous physical exercise alternating time with relaxation.
3. Spend times with friends and family.
4. Take breaks. Engage in positive distracting activities.
5. Try to maintain a normal daily routine as much as possible. Limit adding additionally responsibilities for yourself and family.
6. Eat healthy meals. Avoid excessive sugar and caffeine. Don't skip meals.
7. Get adequate rest.
8. Participate in a support group of others who share similar experiences with you.
9. Keep a journal.
10. Seek out those who are positive and uplifting in the way they speak and act. Use positive self talk.

Keep this list of stress relief around as we will all experience it again down the road of life.

In Memoriam

Budd Ridley, superintendent at Silver Spring GC, was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Detroit, Mi area in mid-July. Budd had just moved to Wisconsin this past spring from Flint, Mi, to take over as the new superintendent. He loved riding his Harley and

exploring his new area in Wisconsin. He had taken a trip back to Michigan to wrap up a little business when his life was taken. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family.

Superintendent Moves

Brendan Osborne took over in mid-August as superintendent at Timber Terrace GC in Chippewa Falls. Brendan came over from Viking GC in Strum. He is originally from Australia. His parents own a greyhound racing track in Australia.

Weddings and Births

Scott Anthes, superintendent at Northern Bay GC, got married in mid August to Jessica Beine. They spent a brief honeymoon in Traverse City, MI.

Chad Hubbard, superintendent at the Fairways of Woodside GC in Sussex, and his wife Kim welcomed their second child into the world. Logan Matthew, born on July 28th, weighed in at 7 lb 4 1/2 oz. Congratulations to both of you!!

I'm sure we haven't captured all the significant news from around the state, so please pass along to me or any of your Reinders reps any updates. We want to spread the good news. You can email me at twentz@reinders.com or call me at 608-220-6592. 🌱

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